Vol. VIII. No. 9.

McGILL
UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Monday, March 16th, 1885.

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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

VOL. VIII.] McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, MARCH 16TH, 1885. [No. 9.

McGill University Gazette

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The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

Editorials.

WE feel certain that the majority of our readers will rejoice when we announce, that, in all likelihood, this issue contains the last of the publications anent the late trouble between certain members of the old staff. In justice to Mr. Palmer and his many friends in the Medical Faculty we have deemed it our duty to publish his letter. Many more letters have been received from those who were on the staff with him ; as we could not possibly afford space for their insertion, we have suppressed all. We trust that those, who censure our course in this regard, will at least give us credit for acting, to the best of our judgment, in the interest of the GAZETTE.

McGILL EXAMINATIONS.

There are several alterations in the manner of conducting these which we desire to suggest. We would like to see the rank of the students depend more upon the work done by them throughout the session and less upon the final spurt. Such a result can be secured in two ways, and perhaps better still by a combination of both. These are (1) a fixed number of class grinds, occurring at irregular intervals throughout the term, and (2) the writing of essays upon portions of the work exacted. In the United States the tendency in the colleges, if it be reported correctly in the students' journals, is more and more away from the system of written examinations and in the direction of the two methods here proposed. The first of these has the advantage of forcing the student to do some steady work at least through the session, while the second ensures thoroughness in his study. Our professors can surely be unaware of the frightful amount of cramming which is done in the university, or they would long since have taken steps to remedy an evil which has now grown to monstrous proportions. Of the danger which they incur by indulging in this vice, the students themselves seldom become fully aware until they have graduated, when looking back critically over their course, they ask themselves how much it has profited them. Too often this late examination is a sad one, and the saddest part of it is the knowledge, then first gained, of the injury done to memory by the all-night sweats and protracted vigils through which they forced themselves to pass, on the eve of examinations, in order to make up for their lack of steady application at earlier seasons. In return for this lasting hurt to memory, they have gained high rank alone, though not always this. The knowledge, grasped with so much pain, has remained but momentarily, and the result of such an investigation is often that the once well crammed student turns again to the books he believed himself master of, and begins anew to conquer them, but now, in the light of his experience, forces his brain to no stupendous undertaking, seeking rather to assimulate thoroughly what he gathers with care, and striving to tone his intellect to its former lofty pitch. There are many promising young minds coming up every year to McGill; how intolerable will it be, if a large number of these share the fate of so many of their predecessors ! And, if so, will the fault be wholly theirs? Will not a share of the responsibility rest upon the shoulders of those who maintain a system which is constantly producing such lamentable results? It is not now, as once, when the written examination was generally accepted as the best test of a candidate's knowledge and one of the most powerful stimulants to his ambition. Other systems, among them those we have mentioned, are being introduced elsewhere and with sucsess. Why should nothing new be attempted here?

AN ENGINEERS' CLUB.

So far as we know. no attempt has been made to organize an engineers' club in Montreal. Certainly none exists. This is surprising when we consider the large number of societies that flourish around us and the benefits they are bestowing upon the members composing them. To say that it shows the superior judgment of engineers, would be far from the truth. That they excel as a body in this particular faculty is undoubtedly true, but it is equally so that they have shown an apathy in this regard that is culpable. It is to be hoped that it may not long be said, that the city which was honored as the place of meeting of the British scientists and engineers cannot lay claim to having a solitary engineering club. The obstacle in the way is not the want of talented men; for of these the profession has its share. At least five engineers in Montreal are members of the American Association of Civil Engineers. This shows that all are not averse to union for purposes of mutual benefit. New York, however, is far from Montreal, and but a very few from this Province can attend the meetings. It seems to us that it would be wise for our members to imitate the example of their brethren in the United States, who have organized themselves into one or more societies in every State of the Union; the greater part being more local than general and independent of the larger associations. In order to raise the status of their profession as well as for purposes of self-improvement, it is desirable that the mechanical, mining and civil engineers of the Province of Quebec should unite. Were this impracticable, Montreal and its vicinity ought to take the initiative.

We will be candid enough to state that we are in part prompted by selfish aims in advocating this matter. We have the interests of the Faculty of Applied Science to protect and can readily realize the advantages that would accrue to its students were they allowed to form the sub-stratum of a club of Montreal engineers. The students would not only profit by the papers read and the discussions ensuing, but would also be brought into more closer relationship with the older and more talented members of their chosen profession who are of all others the men best able to assist them in the most trying period of their lives.

Up to the present few outsiders have taken any interest in the young men, in our engineering school, who are striving to fit themselves for lives of usefulness. To these uninterested outsiders, we would say, be more generous. You cannot afford to ignore us. If the Faculty progresses as rapidly in the future as it has done in the past ten years, in ten years more, a large part of the important engineering works of Canada will be in the hands of its graduates. By giving us the cold shoulder now, you may retard but cannot prevent us from establishing in time a reputation.

Last year the students had the pleasure of listening to a course of lectures delivered by men unconnected with the college, unless in so far as an interest in its welfare is concerned. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Peterson, Kennedy, Bateman, Taylor and others for their interesting lectures. It is to be regretted that nothing has been done in this direction during the present session. We would ask the undergraduates who intend returning next fall to do what they can towards the fulfilment of this object. It would be well also, in the event of failure in establishing an engineers' club in the city, to form one in connection with the college and invite the old and tried friends, as well as graduates of the Science Faculty, to deliver lectures or read papers. At present comparatively few Science students belong to any literary society. The number is sufficiently large to support one of their own.

THE PRELIMINARY BAR EXAMINATION.

Because of the enforcement of this examination, our lawyers pose as public benefactors, alleging that by it they prevent men of no education from obtaining a position in which their ignorance would be dangerous to the property or rights of others, who might be induced to confide in them. As theory this sounds well; in reality it is nothing but claptrap, part of the stage garniture by which the liberal professions are continually imposing upon the credulous. If the bar really aimed at excluding all but trained intellects from the practice of law, they would accept as equivalent to the preliminary examination, or even would insist upon the candidate's possessing, a university degree. By refusing to do this, they show the hollowness of their position. The real *raison d'être* of the preliminary examination is the belief that it is an obstacle which diminishes the number and retards the course of, would-be lawyers. Protection to the public there is none, as the most superficial acquaintance with those who have conquered the ordeal will prove. By fair, or other, means the charlatan and the unscrupulous can always manage to surmount this barrier, from before which the learned and modest are sometimes forced to retire. The examination itself is of such a nature that though sufficient knowledge to pass it may be gained from a tutor in a few weeks, the chances are against the candidate's success, unless he has a power of quick thinking such as is by no means common. The range covered is large, the time short, the questions of all degrees of complexity. Some can be

replied to without hesitation ; others, to answer them properly, require hours of thought, amd the utmost accuracy of expression. Many philosophical problems seem set to give the examiners an excuse for rejecting a candidate, as for example when questions are put to which various or even opposite answers may be given, according as the examinee belongs to one or other school of thought. To what extent prejudice is allowed to govern the board of examiners we know not, but rumor assigns it a large importance, and makes even graver charges. But aside from this the examination in its present from is objectionable in the extreme, as affording no protection to the public and occasionally excluding meritorious men from the pursuit of their chosen profession. This examination, moreover, is not only in itself a bad thing ; the principle which underlies it is pernicious. By what right has this body arrogated to itself the power of placing obstacles in the way of a man's pursuit? Law, no doubt, they have on their side, but what right have they in equity? In answer we are assured in stereotyped phrases that they have been entrusted with this power for the public good. Very well then, let them insist for the public good that aspirants for the counsellor's dignity undergo the severest test of their technical knowledge. We would not object to this, for it is conceivable that such an examination may be for the public good, though there are many who would question it. But what right has this body to attempt to lessen the number of their competitors by placing an unnecessary obstacle in their way? In what a Pharisaic spirit do they do this ! They insist upon a man's acquiring certain kinds of knowledge, the utility of some of which is even now being generally questioned. They claim a fictitious superiority over the rest of men assuming that unless a man's general education be of a certain form, he is unfitted no matter how great his technical skill, for the profession of law. They thus maintain a principle which is contrary to the republican spirit of this country, and one too which is economically unsound, since it restricts freedom of competition. In the Middle Ages all trades and professions were thus hampered, but one by one, succumbing to the influence of enlightened opinion, the guilds were deprived of their exclusive privileges. Some fine day our lawyers and doctors will be deprived in turn of their power to exclude whom they please from the practice of medicine and law. The day may be long delayed, but the longer it is put off, the more thorough will be the change. Our physicians and connsellors will do well to ponder this truth, for it is not improbable that the humbling will come in their own day.

EXAMINATIONS IN APPLIED SCIENCE.

The Sessional Examinations are approaching. To the rapid thinkers, and not necessarily to the most meritorious, will be assigned the first places with honors, while those who have worked equally, if not more diligently, will be lowered, through their deficiency in this particular faculty, into the second, or third classes. In regard to the non-workers, we have not a word to say as they have not a shadow of a chance to obtain a pass. We have no desire to underrate rapid thinking. To the lawyer and politician it is essential to success. It seems, however, to be different in the case of the engineer. Accuracy and comprehensiveness are more useful qualities to the latter. Ample time is usually given him to form conclusions, and his success will depend upon their degree of correctness.

We think it is asking too much of a student-in-training to require him to calculate the stresses in all the members of a bridge of 100-ft. span in about twenty minutes. Some few can do it, but it by no means follows that they will rank highest in the practice of their profession. Human life is too precious to be sacrificed through hastily-formed opinions on the part of the engineer. The traveling public desire him to be careful and accurate rather than hasty and rapid.

Mr. L.—" I have a severe cold in my throat."

Mr. P.—" Well, I have just as bad a one in my head."

Mr. L.—" Queer, is'nt it, how it always strikes the weak, spot?"

Classical Lecture Room. Prof :—" Is Mr. R. still *æger* " ? Soph. in back seat :—" No Sir, he's sick."

Law Prof.—"What constitutes burglary?" Student—"There must be a breaking." Prof.—" Then if a man enters a door and takes a dollar from your vest pocket in the hall, would that be burglary?" Student—" Yes, sir : because that would break me."—*Adelphian.*

Important Passenger.—" Say, pilot, what's the boat stopped for?"

Pilot.—" Too much fog."

I. P.—" But I can see blue sky overhead."

Pilot.—" Wal, 'til the biler busts, we ain't a-goin' that way."—*Life.*

The London *Globe* is authority for the statement that at an examination of Woolwich students the following answers were given to the question : " Give the meanings of " abiit, excessit, erupit, evasit :"

Abiit—He went out to dine.

Excessit.—He took more than was good for him.

Erupit.—It violently disagreed with him.

Evasit.—He put it down to the salmon.

THE SAILOR'S RETURN.

(Translated from Mme. Desbordes-Valmore.)

"Ho! Children have your piercing eyes
Between the billows and the skies
Marked a white sail that neared the land?
Its cloth was woven by my hand;
And, if the truth from dreams I learn,
Ere winter comes, it will return."

"Yes! while we watched the tempest's shock
But lately from a barren rock,
We marked a sail, bereft of mast,
Hurl'd thither by the angry blast."

"Ho! sailors' bairns," the maiden cried,
"Whose fathers on the ocean ride,
Shout, for your cries may pierce the gale,
And reach the pilot of some sail:
When the red lightning lit the sky,
Saw ye our tricolor on high?"

"No! from yon foreland bleak and bare,
Our eyes distinguished in the glare
A wreck that plunged across the seas,
With one who prayed upon his knees."

"Faithful and true, 'tis he! 'tis he!
Thus in my dreams he seemed to be.
Run, children, quickly to the shore,
Make sure 'tis he, come back once more.
Blinded with tears, I fear mine eyes
Will see him—only in the skies."

"Alas! the thunderbolt that crashed,
His body on the rocks has dashed.
Perchance, it still retains some breath,
Come! let us soothe the hour of death."

The children sped—but strove in vain
To wake the corpse to life again.
'Twas he: they called his promised bride:
She, kneeling by her lover's side,
Kissed on his hand, now stiff and cold,
Her gift, their bond, a ring of gold.

How calmly now they sleep at last,
Serenely sheltered from the blast!
No storms hereafter they will brave,
Dead—but united in the grave.

GEO. MURRAY.

Contributions.

THE LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

The man is dead who said, "Let me make the songs of a country, and I care not who makes its laws." Had he lived now he would assuredly have thought we were in a bad way. There is plenty of law. Over-legislation is gradually eating away those "glorious charters" to the key-note of which so many national songs were pitched. We are all in danger of falling into gross hypocrisy and a condition of immorality, the usual result of strenuous efforts to make mankind virtuous by Act of Parliament. And our songs? It is best to say at once that we have none that take the place of what were once known as ballads. If we once acknowledge that there is anything to take their place, we should bow our heads in shame before the window of every music publisher. There still remain on the barrels of a few street-organs primitive tunes, which suggest to some of us words which, if their rhythm was faulty, still had a patriotic flash; or, if their poetry was defective, at least, expressed a tender sentiment. They have been superseded by utterly vulgar inanity, where there is not the slightest effort to observe more than even the poorest semblance of rhyme, while the meaning is confined to a jargon of slang.

If we turn to the current fictional literature, we find conditions not altogether dissimilar. There is no abatement in the publication of novels, intended to supply the increasing demand of languid readers for a new sensation. The supply is almost boundless. Idle women, who hear of great successes, and think they have some faculty for story-telling, are suddenly touched with ambition to make a reputation. They have stored their minds with most of the previous romances of bigamy, adultery, cruelty, and secret murder, which are likely to furnish hints for a new plot, (which means bigamy, adultery, cruelty, and secret murder, in rather different relations), and straightway they dash into a volume, with a determination not to stand particular about composition, or to trouble themselves unduly with parts of speech. If the authoress belongs to the "superior class," or is a lady by right, she often affects a story about her humbler fellow-creatures, and revels in depicting scenes of low-life, of which she is as ignorant as she is of the domestic economy of Timbuctoo. Should she belong to the middle-class, or to that section of the middle-alass, which is on the edge of "Society," and always appears painfully anxious to shuffle a little further into the enchanted ground, she will have nothing to do (except incidentally) with any character below a curate, but gives us a picture of the aristocracy in all its enviable infamy. There are shoals of such books published every year.

Amidst such a stupendous issue of trash, it cannot be wondered at that sound and healthy fiction, the result of patient work and conscientious study, is often unnoted. All depends upon the accidental companionship of a new book. Some of our few good modern novels have fallen almost dead, blighted by the feverish demand for a story of the foul or fleshly school of fiction which has been issued at the same time, or for the subtle animalism which distinguishes the books of certain popular authoresses, of whom it is most charitable to think that they are unable, even faintly, to realize the full meaning of their licentious suggestions and their bold indulgence in the language of lust. There is no need to specify even the latest examples of this "fleshly school," which is more dangerous, because more insidious, than the courser animalism and more obvious vice-painting of the novels of the Georgian era. Every family which reads indiscriminately the "new novels," must have had many volumes which any decently sensitive father would be shocked to place in his daughter's hands, which any delicate-minded husband would send out of the reach of a young and modest wife, which no gentleman should suffer to contaminate a lady in whose mental purity he thoroughly believed.

The truth is, that the father of the family seldom reads the books at all. He probably characterizes them all as "trash," and shrugs his shoulders with the reflection that women like occasionally to amuse themselves with rubbish of the kind. If he would take the trouble to sit down, and quietly go through a volume here and there, he would become a wiser, if not a better man, and perhaps more stringent conditions insist upon. Time was, when certain books were regarded as being tabooed to the daughters of a household, while even the sons were not avowedly permitted to read them until they had left school. "Don Juan," "Roderick Random," "Tom Jones" how innocent they are, not even excepting "Don Juan," beside the half-concealed carnality pretending to be inevitable sentiment, which characterizes the modern novel. Yet respectable middle-aged censors still regard these books as the only volumes necessarily expurgated from the family catalogue, even though they may themselves delight in the wit, the graphic power, and even the moral purpose that the works of Fielding display, qualities not altogether absent, either from the stories of Smollett, coarse as they are. The only hope is that a large number of the readers of the books of the carnalities do not fully understand the language of depravity; but a perusal of the most modern examples, especially of those written by women, so greatly diminishes even this excuse for indifference that the only effectual remedy will be to wholly exclude them from the family.

THE OCEAN.

Tom Moore may regard with fondest emotion
The oily, green swells of the wide spreading sea,
And write the most charming of songs to the ocean
While snug in his room by a fire after tea;

But I, who have tossed on the raging Atlantic,
Eight blustering days, can affirm for my part
That the waves, although tashed into passion quite frantic,
Affected my stomach but never my heart.

ATTIE.

CLERGYMAN: "No, my dear, it is impossible to preach any kind of a sermon to such a congregation of asses." Young lady: "And that is why you call them 'Dear beloved brethren'?"

"You have fifdy cends sharged on my pill for a bath," he said to the hotel cashier at Long Branch. Well, isn't that correct?" "No, sare," replied the disputer, "dot is nod korrect—none of my families ever take a bath." The amount was scratched off.

Lass-étude—Mashing.

"WHAT is the meaning of that red line above the fourth story of your house?" asked a stranger of a man near Pittsburg. "That is a water mark. That mark shows how high the water was during the great overflow about a year ago." "Impossible! If the water had been that high the whole town would have been swept away." "The water never was that high. It only came up to the first-story window, but the cursed boys rubbed it out three or four times, so I put it up there where they can't get at it. It takes a smart man to circumvent those boys."—*Texas Siftings.*

McGill News.

NOTES.—There are about 100 in the graduating classes of the University this year. This session McGill, independent of affiliated colleges, has 525 students, and 43 professors and lecturers. Three new professors are about to be added to the Arts Faculty.

THE JANITORS.—The janitor of the Redpath Museum is now compelled to guard the gas meters during lecture hours as some artful maiden has discovered where and how to check the intensity of the light in the class rooms.—The janitor of the medical building has prepared a bag of ten liters capacity for his spring collections. First sense then cents.

We are unwilling to allow the session to close without acknowledging the valuable assistance that has been rendered us by A. Weir, '86 Science, and we congratulate the shareholders in appointing him an editor for next year. It is pleasing to us who are about to withdraw our names from the college journal and our No. 10's from the college halls to think that the work will be taken up by so competent a successor.

Our Mining Engineers are in hot water. The announcement was recently made that the gold medal awarded by the members of the B. S. A. would be given this spring to the successful candidate among the mining students. The competition will be keen as the men are about equally matched. We would say to one and all "rush her up." To the one who wins we promise a merry bouncing and to those who succumb decent burial. *Tel est le sort de l'homme.*

PROGRESS.—A report, which we surmise is true, has reached the editors of the *Gazette*, to the effect that a Sabbath School has been lately organized in connection with the Arts and Science Reading Room. This new institution is said to be in a flourishing condition. The attendance on the classes is large, the teachers are most efficient, accomplished in story-telling, and well qualified by long experience to lead their youthful disciples in the way in which they should not go. Collections are in future to be taken up, and are in part to be devoted to the support of a Missionary S. S. in the Medical Reading Room.

REFORMS.—Arrangements, we understand, are being made to extend the precincts of the Arts Reading room. An ante-room is to be built in which billiard and other gaming tables, sofas, and reclining chairs for the use of patrons, are to be placed. This and the reading department will be in charge of a boxing master, whose special functions will be to light cigars, pipes, etc., quell riots, induce persons to sit on chairs rather than tables, and forcibly eject all such as shall indulge in political and other discussions. In the old room, ventilators are to be placed for the purpose of carrying off the surplus smoke, and thus prevent the frequent collisions that are now wont to occur in the gloom.

THE DEAD PRISONER.

(Translated from Victor Hugo.

"Ye paths! where grass is waving green—
Ye woods and dales! thou dark ravine!
Why sad and silent, I implore?"
"One who came hither, comes no more!"

Old mansion! wherefore art thou shut,
While tall rank weeds thy garden glut?
Where do thy Master's footsteps stray?"
"He is not here—I cannot say."

"Dog! watch the dwelling." "All is barred,
And naught is left for me to guard."
"Child thou dost weep." "My Sire I mourn,"
"Thou, Woman, too." "I am forlorn!"

"Where is the Master gone? Ye Waves,
Whose moan along the seashore raves;
Whence come ye?" "From a dungeon's gloom."
"Your freight?" "A tenant for the tomb!"

GEO. MURRAY.

College World.

QUEEN'S College, Kingston, has 242 students in Arts and Science.

THE leading jurist of Japan is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

IT is said there are 3,000 graduates in N.Y. city who cannot earn a living.

COLUMBIA is the wealthiest college in America, her endowment is $5,000,000.

MORE than a fourth of the students in German universities are Americans.

NINE young ladies lately received the degree of A. B. from the Royal University of Ireland.

MISS BAXTER, at her death, bequeathed the sum of £135.000 to rebuild and endow Dundee University.

INDIVIDUAL tugs-of-war, with unlimited weights, have been added to the list of events in the winter games at Yale.

Two graduates of the Institute of Technology won the second prize, $3,000, for designs for the new Boston public library.

THE first prize for English composition in Yale College was lately taken by Mr. Van Phan Lee, a Chinese student.

PRESIDENT Eliot of Harvard University has been elected president of the national senate of the Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity.

THE library of Petrarchian and Icelandic literature collected by Prof. Fiske of Cornell, is one of the finest of its kind in this country.

VASSAR College has received a sum of money for a fund to provide prizes for the best essays on Shakespeare, or the Elizabethan period.

THE University of Michigan will have the largest observatory dome in the world, its weight being ten tons, and its diameter 45 feet 4 inches.

CONNELL University has devoted $155,000, from the University funds, for the establishment of thirty-six new scholarships and seven fellowships.

ADELBERT College, in Cleveland, has declared in favor of co-education. The action has caused a revolt, and eighty students have refused to attend examinations.

THE first successful candidate for the degree of Doctor of Science at the University of London was a Hindoo gentleman; the second was Mrs. Sophia Bryant.

PRINCETON theological seminary has buildings, grounds and library valued at $470,000, and an endowment fund of $1,532,924, with an income last year of $66,398.

THE recent sale of the Duke of Wellington's Library is declared to be the greatest book sale on record. It continued for over a month, and the total receipts were some $850,000.

A GOOD college paper is worth more for the moral and gentlemanly tone of college life than a whole library of by-laws and an army of faculty spies.—*N. Y. Independent.*

THE most heavily endowed colleges in the United States are the following:—Columbia $5,000,000; John Hopkins' $4,008,000; Harvard $3,800,000; $1,800,000; Connell $1,400,000.

BY a new regulation of the Harvard faculty, an average of 50 per cent. in all subjects will be necessary for promotion, and also 50 per cent. to work off a condition. The passing mark of 40 remains as before.—*Badger.*

THE treasurer of Harvard University reports that the total income last year was $680,850. The total gifts for the year were $258,438, making the receipts $1,420,339. The total value of productive property is $4,803,938.

THERE is in the United States one daily newspaper to every 10,000 inhabitants. The *Athenæum* is astonished at this discovery: and well it may be, since in Great Britain and Ireland the proportion is one to about 120,000.

THE plan of arbitration between the Faculty and students, which has already been so successfully tried at some colleges, is about to be inaugurated at Harvard, and members of the conference committee are now being chosen by the students.

SIXTY Harvard Freshmen have abandoned their Latin, eighty their Greek, and one hundred their mathematics. None of them, however, have dropped their base-ball or boating, and college culture is therefore safe.—*University Monthly.*

VASSAR College is in great need of an endowment fund, and their is much trouble in the board of trustees on account of the financial state of the college. It is said that the present policy of the institution will involve a debt of $24,000 on June 1.

THE history of college journalism begins with the Dartmouth *Gazette*, which was first issued in the year 1810; and it is a noteworthy fact that Daniel Webster

lent his first literary efforts to this college journal. To-day, there are fully two hundred college papers regularly published.

Alexandre Dumas recently testified before a commission of authors, to which an infuriated scribbler had summoned him, that his adversary had handed him a manuscript to revise, and that he had accordingly revised it to the best of his ability, leaving in it only forty lines of the original.

Earth Movements.—A series of levels established along the Baltic in 1750 have shown that since that time the northern part of Sweden has risen seven feet, the elevation growing less southward until a point is reached which remains at the same level. On the southern side of the Baltic the land has been as steadily sinking.

According to the Harvard *Crimson* the minimum annual expenses of a student at the great American Colleges are as follows :—Harvard, $475 ; Yale, $425 ; Amherst, Williams and colleges of like standing $375. Tuition fees at Harvard are $150 ; at Yale, $140 ; at Amherst, $100 ; at Collumbia, $200 ; at Williams and Princeton, $75.

The Melbourne *Spectator* has this apt advice forcibly expressed to correspondents :

" When writing an article for the press,
Whether prose or verse, just try
To utter your thoughts in the fewest words,
And let them be crisp and dry ;

And when it is finished, and you suppose
It is done exactly brown,
Just look it over again, and then—
Boil it down."

[The *Gazette* heartily endorses the above, and wishes to remark, that were some correspondents to " boil down " their communications they would be surprised to find that the process would result often in entire evaporation, or at least in yielding residues whose strengths are but increased by the concentration.—Ed.]

Goldwin Smith states that Cornell University, with its endowment of $10,000,000, threatens to become *the* University for Ontario.

The elegant, titled Sir Thomas Haut Ton
Fell in love with the only fair daughter
Of an oleomargarine maker, and won
Her affections by swearing his honor upon,
That he never would have any but her.

Alas ! he repented the pun at his ease ;
They were wed, and, as she had the dollars,
He must smile when addressed as " My Lard," or
" Your Grease " ;
When a daughter came, even, the joke didn't cease,
But they marked Margar-ine on her collars.

Harper's Bazar.

Unfortunate Vassar.—That harm as well as good may come from too frequent mention in the newspapers, no one will deny. Vassar College, the pioneer college for women, is an instance where much real harm has come from a cheap newspaper notoriety due to this very fact that it was the first in the field to afford collegiate instruction for the weaker sex. How the college is suffering from the cause may be learned from the following, which an exchange prints :

" The gibes and jests at the expense of Vassar college and Vassar college girls, which thoughtless paragraphers and would-be humorists produce with tiresome redundance, while not establishing the reputation of the authors as wits, are said to be having a disastrous effect upon the college itself. One of the Vassar professors is quoted by a New York paper as saying that the college has not more than half the students it had ten years ago, and the cause of the falling off he ascribes to the fact that the college and its students have become a standing target for the small wits of the country. " Vassar," says the professor, " has become a thing to poke fun at. Half the new jokes about the girls are put upon Vassar students. Their doings are ridiculed, exaggerated, falsified, and the very name of Vassar is a synonym for feminine foolishness. The consequence is that girls are beginning to dislike to go there. I wouldn't be surprised to see the doors of the college shut in five years more. The newspaper paragraphers will have done it."

German Students as seen at Heidelberg Lectures.

The following interesting glance at an important phase of German University life is taken from the columns of the Amherst *Student :*

" It is interesting to watch the students as they gather. The lecture never begins before a quarter past the hour, and during that time the students straggle in, one by one. Each has an enamelled cloth or leather pocket, in which he carries his papers and books for taking notes. He leisurely hangs up his hat and coat, spreads out his papers, and takes from his pocket an inkstand and a common steel pen. The blackened desks and streaked floors give ample proof of the catastrophes that have overtaken these inkstands in times past. An American stylograph would be an untold blessing to the German student, and somebody will undoubtedly make a great fortune by introducing that instrument of comfort and safety, unless, indeed, the conservatism of the Germans should resent and refuse such an improvement. After the student has made his preparation for work he chats with his fellows till the professor comes. The professor is always greeted by applause, or by a rising in the seats. He comes in on a walk that borders on a run ; begins to talk almost before he reaches his box, and often before he has taken off his coat or his gloves. The manner of lecturing is as varied as the individuality of the lecturer. A few sit quietly and read written lectures, some speak with few notes, and some with no notes at all. Few make any attempt at oratorical effect, and as the students' eyes are generally on the note books, such an attempt would be largely wasted. One lecturer, who is quite near sighted, lays his manuscript on the high desk before him, over which only the top of his head is visible to the students, and reads steadily, or putting his hands in his pockets lounges back in his pulpit, where he is only visible to those at the side. Almost all the lecturers drop the voice two or three words before the close of the sentence, which renders it difficult to follow them."

ALDHELM.

He sits on the rustic bridge
Midway from either shore,
And his blue eyes flash, and his flaxen hair
Sweeps o'er his harp as he calls to prayer
The people passing o'er.
His song is like the song of a bird
That sings to its nested mate:
Hope and love and joy are his theme,
And grief and despair and haste
Are to him but a horrid dream.
He strikes his harp and the notes that are heard
Enchant the ear like a loved one's word.

The breeze that sweeps o'er the bending grain,
And the scent of the flowers in the field,
And the dancing foam on the swirling stream,
And the distant rapid's roar
Are gathered into the magic strain
And over the woodland pealed,
Till the listening throng to the music yield
And follow the monk to the chapel door
And kneel on the rush strewn floor.

ALTIE.

Societies.

McGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The tenth regular meeting of the above society for the winter session '84—'85 was held this evening, there being 18 members present. The chair was taken by the President, Dr. Stewart, at 8.30.

Dr. Mills read a very interesting report on "Physiogical Laboratories," in which he drew attention to the beneficial effect such institutions had in advancing the science of medicine, and impressed upon the members present the advisability of not looking upon the results of the patient research of those, who had devoted their labors to the strictly scientific investigation of physiological phenomena, in too utilitarian a light; but rather to consider study of this nature as tending to broaden their mental horizon and educate them, at least, up to such a point as would stimulate them to be on the *qui vive* for any discourses which would help to make the practice of medicine more rational and scientific and less empirical than at present.

Dr. Ruttan stated that in his opinion the study of the primary subjects was the best gymnasium for the training of those faculties of observation so highly requisite in the successful practitioner of to-day.

MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Probably the most successful meeting in the annals of this society was held last Saturday evening at No. 16 Philip's square. The chair was occupied by the president, Dr. Stewart, and every available chair, window, seat and rail was pressed into service to accomodate the 57 members who were present.

The paper of the evening was entitled "Some hints to those about to graduate," and when Dr. Stewart rose to deliver it he was greeted by such a round of applause as told plainer than words how popular the lecturer was among the medicals.

The lecturer was listened to with the greatest attention throughout and at the close of his able essay, the vice-president, Mr. McGannon, in a few well chosen words stated, that although a by law existed precluding a vote of thanks being tendered, yet he felt sure he was voicing the sentiments of those present when he stated that the meeting had heard Dr. Stewart's address with the greatest pleasure and profit and felt how great a debt of gratitude was due him for the interest he had taken in the society during the past year, and hoped that he might be prevailed upon to accept the presidency of the society next year. Dr. Mills and Dr. Stephen were present and made some interesting remarks on continental society. The meeting adjourned until the second Thursday in April.

STUDENT'S Y. M. C. A.

The first annual meeting of the College Young Men's Christian Association was held on Saturday evening, February 28, in the building of the city Y. M. C. A. Although the association was organized only last Spring, it has now become one of the institutions of the college. The growth has been very rapid, as the report of the Membership Committee showed that the present membership is between 60 and 70, which is a decided increase upon the 15 or 20 who were on the roll last Spring. This report said further that opposition and prejudice against the association seemed to be dying out as its aims and character became known. As our association is one of 200 college associations, with a limited number of these, including all the Canadian colleges, correspondence has been opened, which will have in the future a stimulating effect upon all concerned.

As to next year it is expected that the social evenings of the members spent together, will be the beginning of an intercourse between the students and the citizens who have hitherto refrained from opening their homes to college men. Altogether the report of the year was most encouraging and all voiced the leader of the Sunday meetings who, in reviewing the year, said that there were no more appropriate word for us than "The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad." The very great interest and kindness of the Montreal Y. M. C. A. was recognized by a standing vote of thanks. The following are the officers for the coming year: president, N. E. Kendall; vice-president, J. K. Unsworth; rec.-secretary, W. G. Stewart; cor.-secretary, J. W. McOiat; treasurer, G. F. Lewis. Sunday meetings at 4.30 p. m., will be continued to April 12th.

UNDERGRADUATES LITERARY SOCIETY.

The closing meeting of the society for the present session was held on Friday, March 6th. As an evidence of his continued interest in the society, Professor Moyse attended unexpectedly, and was prevailed on to preside. The programme was then proceeded with, Mr. A. B. Clements reading a startling paper on the subject of "wooing," the psychological features of which may have resulted from theory, but bore a strong resemblance to experience. Then came a reading from Shakspeare by Mr. Colquhoun, after which the debate for the evening "Resolved that Ireland should have Home Rule" followed. Upon the affirmative side the speakers were Messrs. A. P. Solandt, T. Macallum, and F. Pedley, upon the negative

Messrs. R. B. O'Sullivan, E. E. Braithwaite and R. B. Henderson. The discussion was ably maintained on both sides, Mr. Pedley's being the most eloquent speech, while Mr. Solandt's evinced more thought on the subject. The arguments were good, but a little more might have been made of what forms Home Rule could take. The debate was decided in favor of the negative side. Mr. Hugh S. McLennan, who was appointed critic in the early part of the evening, read an able paper setting forth the most striking features of the debate. Being called on, Professor Moyse made some remarks upon the question which he treated in a calm, moderate manner, and his speech was loudly applauded. Upon motion of Mr. Topp, seconded by Mr. Paterson, it was decided to adjourn the meetings of the society till next session.

A vote of thanks to Professor Moyse for his attendance and for his kindness in presiding was moved by the President, and passed with three cheers for the popular professor After a motion of thanks to the retiring President the meeting adjourned.

McGILL UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

The first annual meeting of the McGill University Athletic Association was held in the William Molson Hall on Friday evening, February 27th, Sir William Dawson, President, in the chair. The meeting was called to order by the chairman at twenty minutes past eight. The Secretary then read his Annual Report showing that the Association was in an eminently flourishing condition with a membership list of three hundred and six (306), which representation, though small when we take into consideration the total number of students attending the different faculties of McGill, yet shows that the result on the whole of the first annual field meeting of the Association was highly satisfactory. The Treasurer's Report on the financial affairs of the Society is one which few Treasurers of College Athletic Associations can boast of, namely a handsome surplus of about two hundred and ten ($210.) dollars, which speaks very forcibly for the hearty and united manner in which the McGill undergraduates have supported this Association. The following gentlemen are the officers of the McGill Athletic Association for the coming session of 1885-6:—Sir William Dawson, President; Mr. C. W. Wilson, Vice-President; Mr. E. De F. Holden, Secretary; Prof. C. H. McLeod, Treasurer; and Mr. C. P. Brown, Assistant-Treasurer. Several motions were then brought up before the meeting which called forth quite a series of lengthy discussions. The business of the evening being finished, the meeting was brought to a close by a motion of adjournment moved by Mr. Johnson.

E. De F. Holden,
Sec., McG. U. A. A.

PROF. of Political Science: "Mr P.—suppose you discover that a quantity of dynamite is placed beneath your dining room, and you were to be blown up at your usual dinner hour, what would you do to frustrate the conspirators?"

THEN—NOW.

Only a hand at parting,
Only a kiss and blush,
Only my heart and Gracie's
Paralyzed with a rush.

* * * * * * * *

Only a "hand" at poker,
Only a "royal flush,"
Only my chips and aces,
Paralyzed with a rush.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.—Editors.

To the Editors of the McGill University Gazette:

DEAR SIRS.—I cannot ask your indulgence for so much space as would suffice me to consider *seriatim* the various charges which Mr. Turner has spun out against me in the "pithy" letter which appeared in your last number, nor am I by any means satisfied that accusations made by Mr. Turner need any reply. As however there is doubtless some truth in the adage that "if you throw enough mud some of it is sure to stick," permit me briefly to place before the college public the other side of the question, and correct a few of the errors under which Mr. Turner is pleased to labor.

My ignorance of journalistic etiquette has led me into the error of supposing the publication by an editor of an anonymous correspondent's name to be an unprecedented and unwarrantable proceeding, but I shall, of course, submit to Mr. Turner's wider experience in such matters, and hesitate before I accuse so pronounced a champion of the 'manly' and the 'honest' of a course of action vulgarly considered a breach of trust. Before I had written the letter which has so exercised Mr. Turner, I told him plainly the course I intended to pursue, so that amongst the various reasons which I had for adopting a *nom de plume* the hope of "shielding myself" from a presumable attack could scarcely have been one.

The unpardonable insult which Mr. Turner offers the Medical Faculty is based upon an interwiew between myself and a medical professor which exists solely in Mr. Turner's imagination: it is entirely untrue that I have held any communication whatever with any professor upon the subject of *The Gazette;* in coining the conversation which is supposed to have taken place upon that occasion let us hope that he is measuring the intelligence as well as the honor of the Faculty by a canon of his own fashioning.

It is again untrue that I "had placed my resignation in the hands of the directors" before the publication of my letter, either in writing or otherwise, or that I in any sense whatever "seized upon the managing editorship" of the issue which contained it, and though I must plead guilty to the heinous crime of taking the copy to the printer, and to the atrocity of actually reading some of the proofs, yet there are extenuating circumstances, which none are aware of better than

yourselves, Messrs. Editors, at whose request these enormities were committed. I would not of course accuse Mr. Turner of independently discovering any but a sinister motive in the most trifling act of gratuitous courtesy, yet when I ask him to believe that my pôle of the "willing horse" was played at the solicitations of my associate-editors, and in the belief that, unless I (not from my especial competency, but because the rest of the editors were incapacitated by other work) undertook the task, the next issue of the GAZETTE would make a still later appearance than its wont—when I ask him to believe this, I hope he will strain his lively and elastic imagination to the utmost, to grasp so incredible a fact. Charges of dishonesty and falsehood might, seeing their source, have been suffered to pass unheeded, but when Mr. Turner accuses me of going out of my way to work *him* an evil, forbearance ceases to be a virtue.

But after all, when we have waded through some two or three columns of most interesting, if irrelevant matter, we do not reach any denial of the main statement in the letter signed "X." Mr. Turner does not deny specifically that the editorials in No. 5 were unseen by his fellow editors, and when he states that the editorial in No. 6 was actually seen by as many as 3 out of a board of 7 editors he omits the important qualification that truth should have demanded, namely that even these 3 saw it in a state of corrected proof, and at a stage when they could hardly have been kept out of the columns of THE GAZETTE.

But these are matters which can have no sort of interest for the general public: the subject must be well-worn by this time, and in asking you to insert the above in your columns I can promise you at least that it is the last you will hear on this topic from

yours truly,

GUY F. PALMER.

Personals.

G. F. Calder, '85 Arts, who was prostrated some weeks ago with typhoid fever, is convalescent.

J. F. Dowling, M.D. '75, has been lately elected on the Liberal ticket for Renfrew, Ont., with a majority of over 700.

Joseph C. Carran, B.C.L. '62, has just distinguished himself in the Dominion Parliament by making a brilliant speech on the Budget.

Mr. A. B. Osborne, '85, Medicine, is rapidly recovering from the severe attack of pneumonia, by which he was prostrated a short time ago.

Mr. G. H. Raymond, B.A. who went home at Christmas on account of illness, has returned to the city, and has again resumed his studies in the Medical college.

R. J. B. Howard, B.A., M.D., Gold Medallist in Natural Science '79, and in Medicine '82, has lately passed, in London Eng., the examinations admitting him to the degree of M.R.C.S. His papers have received most honourable mention.

HER BROTHER.

Who, when I call upon my dove,
Sits by the register above
And listens to our tales of love?
Her brother.

Who, ere my last sweet call was o'er,
Had water lugged around the door,
Where ice soon formed an inch or more?
Her brother.

Whose soul will shady Tartarus claim
For all my sinful oaths profane,
When sliding down those steps I came?
Her Brother's.

Illini.

Between the Lectures.

Mr. P—. "Well I think I should dine-a-mite earlier."—*Phi Rhonian.*

"YES SIR," said Phinzy, "it was funny enough to make a donkey laugh. I laughed till I cried."—*Ex.*

SOME one has ascertained that the man who finds a pocket-book with cash in it doesn't look in a paper for three weeks.

"MISS FLORENCE, do you love beasts?" "Am I to consider that as a proposal, sir?" was the lady's quick retort.

STUDENT (translating)—"And er—the—er—he—er—went—er—" Professor—"Don't laugh, gentlemen, to err is human."

Stern Parent.—"Another bad report, my son!" "Yes, father; I think you had best talk to the Prof., or he will keep on doing it."

A LADY playfully condemning the wearing of whiskers and mustaches, declared: "It is one of the fashions I invariably set my face against."

"Don't trouble yourself to stretch your mouth any wider," said a dentist to his patient, "I intend to stand outside to draw your teeth."

PROF. (to class in mineralogy): "Can you recall a mineral occurring in the liquid from?" Philosophical student: "Milk, because it comes in *quarts*."—*Ex.*

TWENTY-ONE freshmen were lately suspended in a Welsh college because a professor could not find out who placed a tin tack in his tricycle seat, business end up.—*Ex.*

A LITTLE boy, who had been used to receiving his elder brother's old toys and clothes, recently remarked: "Ma, shall I have to marry his widow when he dies?"—

YOUNG lady (innocently to gentleman): "I wish I could get one of those Freshmen to plant in my garden! I do so want something green." Blushes from Freshie.

"WHY," asked Pat one day, "why was Balaam a first-class astronomer?" The other man gave it up, of

course. "Sure," said Pat, "'twas because he had no trouble in finding an *ass to roid*."

PROFESSOR (who is standing in the rear of a model, turning a crank): "Now, gentlemen, this wheel, you see, is the driver, and that the follower; and behind them is a crank." Prolonged applause.

HERE is a problem for our philosophers "Don't you think that if things were otherwise than they would be if they were not as they are, they might be otherwise than they could have been if they were not thusly?"

"Why is it, pa, that they call them commencement exercises, when they are really the last exercises?" said a young hopeful who had just witnessed the closing scenes of a female seminary. "Because, my son, the girls do not begin to learn anything until after they graduate."

GEORGE ELIOT did not care a great deal for jokes, but she always relished that which referred to one of her own volumes. It is the well-known story about an ignorant English bookseller who put up the notice: "Mill on the Floss; Ditto on Political Economy."

CARLYLE wrote, "to-day is not yesterday." Probably the great philosopher conceived the gorgeously beautiful original thought, while sitting on the bed in the morning, yawning as though trying to swallow the room, and feeling his head to see if it was small enough to fit his hat.

Scene, English Class Room. Prof.—"Mr. Smith, define a vowel." Mr. Smith does so. Prof.—"Mr. Jones, what is a consonant?" Jones (aside to Smith)—tell me. Smith tells him and Jones says glibly "a consonant's a letter that can not be sounded without the aid of a vowel." Prof.—As an example, gentlemen, Mr. Smith is a vowel and Mr. Jones a consonant.

"What are you waiting for?" said a lawyer to an Indian who had paid him money. "Receipt," said the Indian. "A receipt?" said the lawyer, "what do you know about a receipt? Tell me the nature of one, and I will give it to you." "Spose mabe me die; me go to Heben; me find the gate locked; me see 'postle Peter; he say, 'Kiser, what do you want?' Me say, 'Want to go in.' He say, 'You pay A that money?' What me do? I hab no receipt; hab to hunt all ober Hades to find you." He got his receipt.

A FORECAST OF THE EXAMS.

In view of the nearness of the approaching examinations in the Faculty of Medicine, the Patent-Universal-Grinder, a hireling of the GAZETTE, has, in accordance with an ancient custom, set the following papers:

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

1. Name, if possible, two diseases, the treatment of which by citrate of potash would be inappropriate.

2. Explain the treatment of rickets by heroic doses of salicylate of soda. Would you advise the patient to say his prayers on his rachitic rosary before proceeding to inflict the treatment?

3. What are the methods employed (A) by Koch, (B) by Mills for demonstrating the *Bacillus Hysteria* under the microscope? How is it distinguished from that of Cerebral Hemorrhage?

4. A patient, aged 93 (female), has pneumonia of the right base, tubercular peritonitis with symptoms of perforation, cancer of the liver, and acute Brights, but in other respects she is fairly healthy. She is taken suddenly ill, however, and two days later has profuse epistaxis with some loss of appetite. How would you proceed to show that it was a case of cholera infantum, stating the chief points you would attend to in making a differential diagnosis from popliteal aneurism?

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY.

1. Mention the chief uses of the laryngoscope in detecting foreign bodies in the duodenum.

2. Name in order the structures removed in the performance of a Clean shave.

3. If a man were to happen to bleed to death from epistaxis, what would you do if you came too late?

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

1. Explain how bricks and stones, obeying gravity, may cause death by fire.

2. If a man's third wife is 20 years old, and if he has survived a full course of Medical Jurisprudence, and has been asked to insure his life in two American companies, what is his expectation of life? Would you ask any further questions before refusing to recommend the risk?

3. By what signs would you tell when a man was bored to death? How does this affect (*a*) post-mortem rigidity (*b*) his chance of a happy hereafter?

PATHOLOGY.

1. What did the police say when I and my friend Hoppe-Seyler and other physiologists painted Strasbourg pikro-carmine (*a*) to me, (*b*) to poor Hoppe, (*c*) to the other physiologists? Why?

2. Give a complete list of the things you never heard of before I lectured on Pathology.

3. Show by a diagram what I think about things in general.

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

FACULTY OF ARTS.

Zoology.

TIME . . . . . 8 minutes.

1. Given *Adam* illustrate by four horizontal lines his connection with a bearded *Gasteropod*.
2. Give the genealogy of a Lamelli branchiate to four decimal places and state the position of this class in the legislature of the Province Macklusky.
3. If Sir *Lancelet* was a knight under King Arthur, show by a diagram that the Amphioxus is a species of Englishman found in the Isle of Man.

4. Given one of the neighbours of the *Eozoon Canadense* show by reference to the *femur* of a cuttle-fish or the *antennae* of an Echinus that they kept up telegraphic communications.

5. From the fibula of an amoeba, the trochanter of an infusorian, the siphuncle of a wasp, the pallial line of an alligator, and the ctenaphore of an elephant construct a mule.

6. Show (1) your relativity to a giraffe, and (2) your declivity from an oyster, stating in what era you received legs.

THE CALENDAR.

Time.....All Session.

1. Show by logarithms that you are not allowed to take exemptions from subjects in which you are sure to be plucked. Solve the formula on which this rule is based.

2. Calculate the angular divergence between a man awaiting the conference of his degree and the man who entered with him as a freshman but who is not yet a sophomore, and show that it corresponds to 186°.

3. Quote any paragraph in the calendar and show by a month's study that it is inexplicable.

4. Explain the value of gowns in identifications.

5. Show that FINES are absurd, and that therefore boarding mistresses should institute them as means of forcing students to come to dinner.

6. Prove that, as exams. passed : supplimental : : celluloid cuffs : 30 per cent.

MECHANICS.

1. Let the course of B. A. be an inclined plane, prove that as the height of the passing standard is to the length of the course, so is the number of nights you spend at the Academy to the amount of your mental force exerted, and that the resultant is at right angles to your expectations.

2. Prove that the *moment* of your entrance into the Molson Hall, is to the *resistance* of your feathers, as the velocity of your quill is to the pendulum-like motions of your crib.

3. Give a diagram of the force of specific gravity on Beaver Hall hill,

4. What do you know about pumps; where did you see one last? If the fluid pumped was XXX calculate its brain pressure.

5. Imagine yourself revolving in "watch-hands" direction about a fixed centre, *compose* your forces and give a brief sketch of your surroundings.

6. Equilibrate yourself on a dynimite cartridge; become excited; expatiate upon your position; and finally, calculate your projectility.

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